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Letter dated 14 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 April 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plûmer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 14 April 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 26 March 1998 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/52/841-S/1998/270).

I would like to recall that similar charges on so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 27 February 1998 (A/52/809-S/1998/174). Suffice it to say that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The Greek Cypriot side continues to uphold the myth that it has sovereignty and jurisdiction over the whole island under the title of the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus", when in fact the bi-national partnership Republic established under the 1960 Agreements was converted into a purely Greek Cypriot republic by force of arms in December 1963. The Turkish Cypriot people have never bowed to the illegal writ of the Greek Cypriot side and have defended their sovereign rights emanating from the 1960 Agreements on Cyprus.

The time has come for all those concerned in the peaceful settlement of the Cyprus dispute to recognize the fact that the Greek Cypriot administration does not have the legal and moral right to claim to be the legal Government of the island as a whole. This pretence is the underlying reason for the lack of a settlement. It is thus necessary to adopt a new approach to the Cyprus question that will reflect the equal status of the two peoples and acknowledge the existence of two fully functioning democratic States in the island. Our starting point has to be sovereign equality based on mutual respect and a symmetry in relations between the two sides.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus